

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The 648, 664 and 698 Battalions of the 42 Regiment are spread out south and parallel to Colonial Route 5 between Van Giang (approximately N 20-50, E 105-55) and Thanh Mien (N 20-45, E 106-15). The 432, 433 and 434 Battalions of the 238 Regiment are in the same relative position north of Colonial Route 5.
  2. The entire 50 Regiment has been transferred from Thai Binh and will operate in the area between Hai Duong and Haiphong. The regimental command is at Tu Ky (N 20-51, E 106-20). The 50 Regiment will be replaced in Thai Binh by the 64 Regiment of the 320 Division.

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Comment. It is believed that recent operations along Colonial Route 5 are only a phase which may be followed by other phases. The first phase may be the creation of a Colonial Route 5 front and consolidation of Viet Minh organizations. The second phase may be operations timed to coincide with the attacks on Dien Bien Phu and may be sequels to recent attacks on airports in North Vietnam. The nature of the third phase cannot be determined as yet, but it is possible that the aim of these operations will be to cut the French-Vietnamese supply line. Son Tay appears to be endangered in the same manner as Colonial Route 5.

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